

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,632
Response filed August 25, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 26, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are currently pending in this application. Claims 13 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended. Claim 1 has incorporated therein the feature of claim 20, which was allowed by the Examiner, and claim 20 is cancelled. Claim 4 is amended so as to be independent by incorporating the features of claim 1. Claim 10 has incorporated therein the features of claim 13 which was allowed by the Examiner, and claim 13 is canceled.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in regard to claims 4, 6-8, 13 and 20.

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pettit, Jr. (US 3,998,768).

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matters, making this rejection now moot.

Claims 4, 6-8, 13 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 13 and 20 have been canceled. Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form. As base claim 1 of claims 6-8 as amended is believed to be allowable, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

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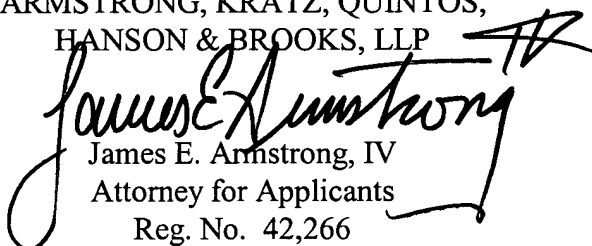
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-12 and 14-19, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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